INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER
T.M.

VOL. 3, NO. 6 JUN. 1978

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

THE CASE FOR IFO STUDY: A RECENT EXAMPLE

NAVY RADAR-VISUAL IN FLORIDA

A NEW GALLUP POLL ON UFOs

UFO OCCUPANTS: A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

THE STATE OF UFO RESEARCH IN ITALY

2 UFOs SELECTED FROM 40 U.S. CASES

AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION:

One year: $12.00 (Add $3.00 Foreign—$10.00 Foreign Air Mail)
Two years: $20.00 (Add $6.00 Foreign—$20.00 Foreign Air Mail)

EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

"At tree-top level . . . "—this phrase often appears in UFO reports. It seems on the surface to be a straightforward informative phrase, conjuring up a fairly definite picture—namely, an object literally at tree-top level, or about 50-100 feet above the ground. Often this statement is coupled with another—"the object passed overhead". Taken together, they strongly imply that the sighted object (generally also reported to be silent or nearly so) passed directly over the witnesses at a height of less than 100 feet. That would make a Close Encounter indeed!

But, one must be extremely careful about accepting such a statement at face value. It can cause a great deal of confusion. Take "at treetop level". The moon can be seen to be at tree-top level when it is seen close to the horizon! Yet, in actuality, it is 240,000 miles above the Earth!

Or take "it passed overhead". "Overhead" is often very loosely used. To some it means "fairly high above the horizon" or just "not near the horizon". So, when a witness says "It passed overhead at tree-top level", this could mean that it passed by at half-way between the horizon and the zenith.

The lesson here is clear: one should not put one's own interpretation on the witness's statement.

J. Allen Hynek

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we cannot exert the same degree of control over these cases compared to domestic ones, it is at least of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon as in the U.S.

AUSTRALIA: Mt. Lofty Ranges, South Australia, July 1967. A young physicist/private pilot reported the sighting of an unusual object seen at about 10 PM. While brushing her teeth, she glanced out the window at an intensely luminous orange light. She called to her mother and the two went outside to watch a cigar-shaped light hovering, moving slightly up and down, and eventually turning over on its side. As the UFO manuveured, different aspects of the body could be seen including distinct portholes that were different in color from the rest of the body and appeared around the lower edge. After watching the object hover for approximately twenty minutes, the two witnesses observed it to move off to the western horizon at a very high rate of speed. Several other unconfirmed reports by independent witnesses were made to local authorities describing much the same object and motions. Although the Adelaide Airport radar controller was not contacted at the time, subsequent radar coverage tests revealed that "there is a good deal of intermittency in the radar contacts in this area"; hence, no confirmation was obtained.
SOURCE: Direct

ENGLAND: Southhampton, Hampshire, November 1968. Two children, ages 10 and 12, were playing in the garden of their father's hotel when they noticed a "speck" high in the sky come out of the clouds. It increased in size and came closer, moving over the roof of the hotel. The shape of the object was that of a large flattened disc shape with black square windows on the sides. The disc moved until it was directly above them at the height of the ceiling of a normal room. The children were terrified as the object hovered over them for 30 seconds. Then it sped up, moved off, and disappeared behind some tress.
SOURCE: Direct

ENGLAND: Leddington, Middlesex, August 4, 1977. An electronics company worker living about six miles from the London airport was outside watching the sky at about 9:10 PM. He noted a small light travelling fast on the right of the well-used flight path. Training his binoculars on the object, he noted that it began to hover for about 20 seconds almost on the flight path, and was resolved into a submarine shape with five portholes, each shining with an orange haze. In the dusky sky, the object appeared to be reflective metal. No sound was heard and the object appeared to move away quickly when an aircraft on the normal flight path approached. (*Ed.: Possible aircraft?*)
SOURCE: Direct

INDIA: Bombay, mid-April, 1978. Many Bombay residents sighted a very bright white streak-like "UFO" moving quickly from north to south. The estimated height of the object was 2000 feet and its speed several hundred miles per hour. City residents reported seeing the same object the following day but in this instance, the object was moving from south to north. (*Ed.: Possible meteor?*)
SOURCE: Direct

NEW ZEALAND: Waimata Valley, December 2, 1977. A farmer, lying in bed, was disturbed by the barking of his dogs from their kennels. Grabbing his gun he went to the back door where he saw a landed saucer-shaped craft in a paddock about 100 feet away. It appeared to be about fifty feet in diameter and was bright red, with two doors in the side which were open. Looking over towards his kennels, the farmer saw two humanoid beings about 4' 8" in height with slim builds. They were carrying one of the dogs, which appeared comatose. The farmer opened fire on the creatures, hit one, and apparently startled them into dropping the animal. The being that had been hit ran off into the bushes and the other ran into the UFO which then ascended vertically. The dog remained dazed for a few minutes and then became very agitated.
SOURCE: NEW ZEALAND SPACEVIEW, 1st Quarter, 1978

NEW ZEALAND: Tatapouri, December 6, 1977. At 7:30 PM, three people in an automobile reported seeing a disc-shaped, red UFO coming from the direction of the sea. It seemed to follow their car for a distance of about one mile until the driver stopped the car so that they could take a better look at it. At that instant, the UFO veered off into the hills towards the Waimata Valley (an area of increased UFO sightings during that month). The witnesses noted that their car lights were much dimmer than usual and on arriving at their destination, discovered that the car battery had no water in it despite the fact that it was nearly new and had been serviced two days before the sighting.
SOURCE: NEW ZEALAND SPACEVIEW, 1st Quarter, 1978

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear IUR:

I am involved in a project putting together a catalog of UFO literature and thought, sort of a "quoting bibliography", and am looking for old and present UFO literature (newsletters, journals, magazines, etc.) that ufologists and others would be willing to donate, lend, or sell in assistance with this reference project. Any help appreciated.

Tom Lind
Box 711
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Second class postage paid at Evanston Post Office.

Published monthly by International UFO Reporter, Inc., 1609 Sherman Ave., Suite 207, Evanston, Ill. 60201. Copyright © 1978 by International UFO Reporter, Inc., all rights reserved. No part of this issue may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic or electronic process or otherwise copied for public or private use without written permission from the publisher. All notices of change of address must be sent six weeks in advance and accompanied by old and new addresses. J. Allen Hynek, *Chairman of the Board*; David J. Baldwin, *President and Publisher*; Carl M. Teutsch, Jr., *Executive Vice-President*; Harvey X. Koloms, *Secretary/Treasurer.*

Editor-in-Chief: J. Allen Hynek

Managing Editor: Allan Hendry

U.S. SIGHTINGS

2 UFOs SELECTED FROM 40 CASES: Apr. 15-May 14

38 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.
No reports are still under investigation.
Refer to the monthly "Profile" feature for complete evaluations.

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated *reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
3-6-29	NL	5-13-78	10: 45 PM	17 min.	3	Northport, AL

A 15-year old girl and her 18-year old boyfriend were sitting on the porch when their attention was attracted to an intensely bright pale yellow light. The light was oblong in shape and the size of the full moon on the sky. No sound was heard. Seen in the east at about 60 degrees above the horizon, the object hovered for about fifteen minutes, rocking slightly back and forth. Three tripod type legs were seen on the underside. At this point, the young girl went inside to get her 47-year old mother, who remarked that her daughter appeared to be pale and shaking with fear. The mother came out in time to watch the object fall a short distance "like a falling star" and then remain stationary for a few seconds. Finally, the object seemed to become slightly smaller and slowly went down behind the trees on the horizon (taking about two minutes).

The sighting took place in a suburban area and despite its large size and intense illumination, inspired no other sightings or calls to local agencies. The sighting may possibly be attributable to a helicopter (though none was reported to be in the area) as seen by excitable witnesses.

THE STATE OF UFO RESEARCH IN ITALY

Ed. Note: Dr. Hynek has just returned from Italy where he attended a conference on UFOs sponsored by the IL GIONALE DEI MISTERI, under the direct supervision of Mr. Giulio Brunner, Editor of that magazine. He met with members of several UFO organizations, notably with Mr. Roberto Pinotti of CUN (Centro Ufologico Nazionale) which publishes the Journal, NOTIZARIO UFO. These are some of his impressions of the Italian UFO scene.

Clearly, in only a few days it is impossible to obtain a comprehensive picture of the state of Ufology in any country. Nonetheless, I was able to form some general idea of both UFO activity in Italy and of its investigation.

For a country its size, approximately half that of Texas, UFO activity appears to be surprisingly high. I heard many accounts from several sources, and listened in some detail to the reasonably well investigated cases in Sardinia, etc. (see IUR, April issue). Italy has certainly had some "bell ringers".

There is little difference between Italy and other countries in public opinion on UFOs; it is just as polarized. I found some scientists fairly open-minded (or so they indicated) and others violently opposed to the subject. The press appears to be more generous, if I can judge by the space given to my visit and the conference. Appearances on Italian TV led (as it often does in other countries) to the surfacing of UFO stories. On my flight back to the United States, I was given two first hand accounts of interesting Daylight Disc sightings made by an Alitalia Airlines Captain of 25 years flying experience. He had never reported them to anyone, much less his company, and waited until, as he said, he had the proper opportunity to do so.

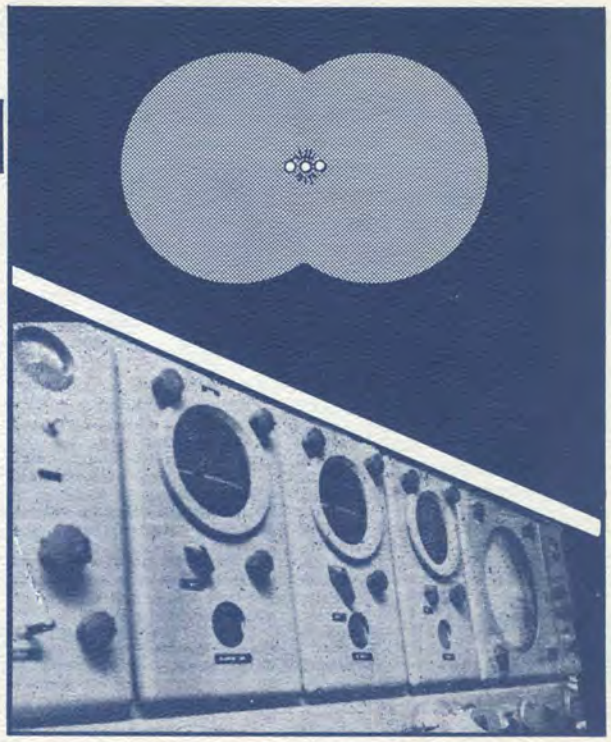
UFO research prospers and suffers much as it does in other countries. There is no governmental support or other definite funding for such work. The most dedicated workers seem also to be the most hampered by lack of funds (where have I heard that before?). Working directly out of their homes they are none the less

(cont. on newspage)

First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.

UFO of High Merit

NAVY RADAR-VISUAL IN FLORIDA PART I



CASE 3-6-40

Finally a case, and a Radar/Visual at that, worthy of our readers' complete attention. Naval personnel at a bombing range in central Florida were prompted to go outside and look for a mysterious multi-colored light when civilians called the base, asking if the light was one of their own parachute flares. Around a dozen people on the base witnessed the sight, including two men (Air Controlman Gary Collison and Gary Sneed) in the observation tower, radar operator Timothy Collins with eight years experience in a radar van 50 yards away, and a Duty Officer with fourteen years experience, Robert Clark. Other witnesses on the base included Carol Snyder, Robert Nunez, and Elmer Pumphrey.

ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Sunday, May 14, 1978. **TIME:** 10:30 PM, EDT
PLACE: Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range Tracking Station, a naval training facility 32 miles ESE of Ocala, in Lake County, Florida, amidst flat, rural, marshy surroundings. This is a restricted area (R-2910) for air flights for a 5-nautical mile radius. All flights are controlled by the Jacksonville Center (ARTCC).

APPEARANCE

Different details were provided by different visual witnesses; to the naked eye, it usually appeared as a "large star" flashing different colors. Through 7 x 50 binoculars, however, it looked like a tight cluster of individual lights. Robert Clark saw the lights as red, green and white, flashing in sequence. Timothy Collins saw them as red lights through a periscope in the radar van. They were as bright as a plane's landing lights. No noise was heard.

MOTION

Preparing a time schedule of events in this case is nearly impossible as none of the Navy witnesses took note of times or durations. Indeed, one of the witnesses in the observation tower thought the last sighting took place around 11 PM! Yet this selection of times offered by Duty Officer Clark seems to be the most coherent estimate; I offer it mostly as a means of organizing the three main sightings:

10:30 PM—Lights hovered stationary over trees in the WNW at eye level. They appeared to be directly over an old Civil Defense tower located 5300 yards (3 miles) away.

11:00 PM—Radar system being warmed up now. Lights still stationary.

11:20 PM—Radar "locks on" to target, places it at same range as tower (3 miles), 291° bearing (WNW), and 0.2° elevation. This would result in a 50- to 100-foot altitude above the ground! All the radar operator would commit himself to was "treetop level".

11:30-35 PM—The lights make an abrupt disappearance both visually and on radar. The simultaneity was confirmable via the intercommunication between tower and radar van, if not by time noted.

11:40 PM—Visual observers spot "the lights" again, but 15° to the north, and still at treetop level. The radar observer searches the same area and finds it, yet his computer-assisted system could not now lock onto the target for some reason. Collins also saw it visually here through his periscope; he noted, though, that there was no way of knowing whether this was the original "UFO" or a second one.

11:45-50 PM—Target vanishes from sight and is gone from the radar display in the duration of one sweep. The visual observers are uncertain as to the actual method of departure.

12 midnight—Using a PPI radar mode to follow motion, "the" target (?) was discovered on radar for the third and last time, now moving at a speed in excess of 500 knots and accelerating southbound for about

FRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEW
UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT *
* * * * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED MAY 31, 1978 * * * * * * * *

BUFORA '78 CONFERENCE A SUCCESS - The National UFO Research and Investigations Conference held in Nottingham, England on April 15-16 and sponsored by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) was deemed a resounding success by the attendees. Papers from the thirteen speakers reflected varying UFO hypotheses, ranging from contact with an advanced technology to mental or social phenomena. Some highlights of the papers:

Skandinavisk UFO Information (SUFOI) showed that Danish sightings tended to peak in numbers at about 9:30 PM with a lesser peak at 3:00 AM local time.
Dr. Richard Haines, a specialist in human vision and perception from California, reviewed the most commonly reported UFO shapes and noted that when artists interpreted witnesses' descriptions, they tended to draw symmetrical shapes despite the fact that many witnesses drew non-symmetrical shapes. He also noted that no two witnesses in a multiple-witness cases produced identical drawings.
Anthony Pace, Lionel Beer, and Randall Jones Pugh reviewed the unprecedented (for the UK) close encounters of the third kind and general UFO flap which occurred in West Wales in the first half of 1977.
On the physical data side, Steve Gamble spoke on the formation of complex biochemicals from simple molecules.
Finally, Robert Digby spoke on his conviction that the most valuable cases were the close encounters of the second kind.
The conference proceedings are available from Hon. Secretary, BUFORA, 6 Cairn Avenue, London W5 5HX

MUFON 1978 SYMPOSIUM - The annual Mutual UFO Network symposium will be held starting July 29 at the Dayton Convention Center in Dayton, Ohio. Among the featured speakers will be Dr. Richard Hall, Ted Bloecher, Donald Keyhoe, Len Stringfield, and Dr. J. Allen Hynek. For further information contact Walt Andrus, 103 Old Towne Road, Seguin, TX 78155.

ITALY (cont.)

The UFO Congress, sponsored by a popular magazine devoted rather uncritically to mysteries of divers kinds, was intended as a focus for discussion of UFO research problems, but suffered as many Congresses have (notably the Acapulco Congress of last year) from lack of organization and direction. Nonetheless, its sponsors appeared to have the best of intentions and have approached the Center for UFO Studies for assistance in establishing a coherent organization and methodology for the study of Italian and southern European cases. Naturally, we shall give all the assistance we can, as long as the motives remain dedicated to serious research and education. Funds for such work have been promised by the IL GIORNALE DEI MISTERI. It may be hoped also that a properly funded effort could work to bring together the various independent groups which by themselves are extremely limited in their scope. It is too bad that the lesson "in union there is strength" is so hard for UFO groups to learn, in Italy as well as in this country. Some of the individual groups in Italy, were listed in the January 1978 issue of IUR, and are found in the cities of Rome, Milan, Turin, Bologna, and Genoa. The incipient IL GIORNALE DIE MISTERI sponsored group would be centered in Florence.

A project on a totally different plane of scholarship is the noble effort of Dr. Farabone and others in Bologna to publish an annual journal of UFO research adhering to the highest principles of scientific procedure, UFO PHENOMENA. It is an international journal, and a much needed one, but publication is necessarily slow since the number of serious scientific contributions in this field grows slowly. This publication deserves all the support we can give it.

As far as I was able to determine, there also exists in Italy as in other countries, a "silent majority" of unreported cases. As always, investigation into a given case often produces "cases from the closet", cases which people have either been reluctant to report or did not know where to report. The Alitalia Captain encounter mentioned before is a case in point. Briefly, his first account was that of a silvery, tear-shaped

(cont. on last newspage)

CASE OF MERIT (cont.)

METEOROLOGY: What does it mean that the target viewed for the longest time was directly over the Civil Defense tower at exactly the same distance and so low above it? Could the visual and radar images have merely been a mirage inversion of the tower itself (the tower has a steady red light on top)? I hoped to secure temperature inversion conditions for that area, but the closest upper air soundings were in Tampa on the coast, and the results would not have been extendable to inland Ocala. The radar operator Collins noted that he fixes on that tower every day to calibrate his bearing readings, and he has never before noted such an effect. He described the image as being "solid", akin to jetliners seen on his scopes. Also, he noted no ducting, super-refraction, sub-refraction, ground clutter, "angels", weather returns or interference with his systems in that period. The radar had just been thoroughly checked out two weeks before, and has suffered no down time.

AERONAUTICS: Could aircraft of some sort have accounted for the images? To enter the restricted area around the Navy bombing ranges requires the clearance of the Jacksonville ARTCC. No flights were cleared by them to approach the area within the distances observed. The chance exists, of course, that a plane strayed into the area unauthorized; indeed, the radar's IFF recognition of a plane's transponder signals was not functioning at the time. Yet how could aircraft perform all of the maneuvers observed, even given a considerable amount of misinterpretation by the radar operator?

CONCLUSIONS

This Radar/Visual case tends to suffer from the same major drawbacks that have weakened most of the other RVs in the UFO literature:

—lack of "real time" documentation. None of the witnesses took note of actual times, durations or appearances. This is a problem here because their memories are only partial and, worse yet, in conflict. This is not to say that the incident didn't take place, but we are denied the opportunity to compare carefully the visual sightings with the radar observations (such comparison was made by intercommunication between tower and radar van). It also means that the full potential of the sophisticated radar gear went unexploited in this UFO event . . . a shame, since this is the best Radar/Visual case yet in IUR's direct investigatory experience.

—appearance of the UFO under conditions of darkness. Virtually all RVs are NLs with the benefit of radar, preventing a good look at the distant object.

—appearance of the UFO as only a point source (or sources) of light. As a consequence, there is no way to be sure that the three separate events weren't caused by different, possibly unrelated, targets.

In part two of this report, IUR will print the results of the FAA's study of their radar tape replay, the testimony of the civilian witnesses that saw the event prior to the Navy base, and the testimony of the second tower observer.

A NEW GALLUP POLL ON UFOs

George Gallup of THE GALLUP POLL has communicated the following results of the latest poll on UFO interest and recognition:

A solid majority of Americans now express a belief in UFOs with the proportion having grown steadily since 1966 when the first measurement was taken.

In the latest survey, 57 percent of those aware of UFOs believe they are real, while 27 percent doubt their existence. In 1966, the comparable figures were 54 and 34 percent, respectively.

The survey also shows that as many as one American in nine (9 percent, or a projected 13 million people) has actually seen what he believes to be a UFO.

Among those who have made a "sighting," opinion is overwhelming (90 percent) that UFOs are the real thing. But even among those who have not seen a UFO, believers far outnumber disbelievers.

The college-educated and younger people, as well as those living in the Far West, are most likely to have sighted a UFO and to believe in their existence.

One of the believers is a 30-year-old housewife in Iselin, N.J., who described her sighting to a Gallup Poll interviewer.

"We were out by a lake one night about midnight," she said. "We were all sitting around talking when I saw a bluish light or aura of some type. It hovered over the lake for a few minutes and lit up the whole area. Then after a couple of minutes it just disappeared."

TEENS MORE ACCEPTING

Although there is a growing belief of the UFO phenomenon among adult Americans, they are more skeptical than teenagers.

A Gallup Youth Survey conducted at the same time as the one reported today showed teens proportionately more likely to say they have sighted something they believe to have been a UFO, and less likely to question the reality of UFOs and the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Among the 93 percent of adults in the current survey who said they had heard or read about UFOs, the following question was asked:

"Have you, yourself, ever seen anything you thought was a UFO?"

And here are the results nationwide as well as by significant population groups:

(cont. on next page)

GALLUP (cont.)

And this question was asked next of the same group:

"In your opinion, are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?"

BELIEF IN EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

The growing belief in UFOs coincides with an increase in the percentage of Americans who believe there are humanoids living somewhere else in the universe.

About half the public, 51 percent, currently believes we are not alone in the universe while 33 percent hold the opposite view.

The current figures represent a substantial increase in the percentage who believe in extraterrestrial life since 1966 when 34 percent expressed the same opinion.

As is the case with other questions in the survey, the college-educated, young people, and those living in the Far West are most likely to believe in human life on other planets.

This question was asked of the total sample:

"Do you think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe, or not?"

The results reported are based on personal interviews with 1,560 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period March 3-6.

EVER SEEN A UFO?

(Based on those who have heard or read about UFOs)

NATIONWIDE	9%
East	9
Midwest	8
South	9
West	14
Less than 30 years old	15
30-49 years old	9
50 years and older	6
College background	9
High school	11
Grade school	5

UFOs REAL OR IMAGINARY?

(Based on those who have heard or read about UFOs)

	Real	Imaginary	Not Sure
1978	57%	27%	16%
1973	54	30	16
1966	46	29	25

IUR called Gallup and confirmed that their press release is erroneously publishing the 1973 figure "11%" for the total number of Americans who think they have seen UFOs. The right number is "9%," equalling 13 million adult Americans. This is less than 1973! Where is the furor over "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" anyway?

PEOPLE LIKE US ON OTHER PLANETS?

	Yes	No	Not sure
1978	51%	33%	16%
1973	46	38	16
1966	34	46	20

And here are the current results:

	Yes	No	Not sure
NATIONWIDE	51%	33%	16%
East	50	34	16
Midwest	54	30	16
South	42	39	19
West	62	26	12
Less than 30 years	67	21	12
30-49 years	54	32	14
50 and older	37	43	20

UFOs REAL OR IMAGINARY

(Based on those who have heard or read about UFOs)

	Real	Imaginary	Not Sure
NATIONWIDE	57%	27%	16%
East	53	29	18
Midwest	61	26	13
South	48	32	20
West	69	19	12
Less than 30 years	70	20	10
30-49 years	63	23	14
50 years and older	40	38	22
College background	66	23	11
High School	57	27	16
Grade School	36	38	22
Have seen UFO	90	8	2
Haven't seen one	53	30	17

OCCUPANTS (cont.)

one can visualize these different life-sustaining planets in the universe as analogous to the discontinuous continents on Earth. As such, it would not be inconceivable that living communities on these different planets would be superficially similar in form and function, even though of different evolutionary origins; this is the concept of ecological equivalence. Moreover, if there exists on each of these planets a potential niche for an intelligent, mobile life form capable of using tools as the basis for the development of a sophisticated technology, it is not inconceivable that the physical structure of these beings would be humanoid in appearance, morphologically similar to the species occupying the same niche on planet Earth; this is the concept of convergent evolution.

This argument assumes, of course, that the principles of ecological equivalence and convergent evolution, which operate on the discontinuous continents of Earth, are cosmic in application, operating on all discontinuous life-supporting planets similar to Earth in the universe. The application of biological principles, developed from observing the flora and fauna of Earth, should allow us to approach the theoretical possibility of life forms on other planets with a more open mind, allowing us to expect similarities as well as obvious differences. This argument is not unlike that advanced by George Wald (3) concerning the chemical composition of life on Earth: he concludes that carbon is the best element for constructing living systems and that life elsewhere, should it exist, probably also is based on a carbon chemistry due to the inherent physicochemical advantages of the chemical-combining properties of this element. Thus, just as physicochemical principles may dictate that carbon is the most suitable element for constructing biomolecules wherever they arise, then biological principles may dictate the structure and function of life forms as they evolve.

(cont. on next page)

A final concept in biological science applicable to the problem of the morphology of possible UFO occupants is that of *cultural evolution* (4), the process which may supercede organic or biological evolution once intelligence has evolved. Modern man is not unlike his primitive "caveman" ancestors in physical appearance, yet his dominance of the environment through technological advances, such as computer technology, nuclear energy and space travel to the moon, is infinitely more advanced. This remarkable progress of man as a species in such a relatively short period of geological time has been accomplished through the development and transmission of ideas, inventions, traditions, laws, and customs without concomitant changes in physical appearance. Individuals master the existing cultural information through conditioning, training, and learning, and subsequently add new knowledge to the collective storehouse of culture. Once man created a significant culture and technology, he began to adjust the environment to himself through cultural evolution rather than to adjust himself to the environment through organic or biological evolution. Once a species has evolved intelligence biologically to the point of technological mastery of the environment, this species need no longer physically adapt or evolve in any significant way to environmental change. Therefore, one need not necessarily be surprised if intelligent humanoids, occupying a niche similar to ours on other planets, have stopped evolving physically once they have created appropriate technology and culture. They need not have physically more advanced legs, hands, eyes, etc., which can perform functions our legs, hands, eyes, etc., cannot. As soon as they have created the technology for improved locomotion, manipulation, sensory input, etc., there is no selective biological advantage for the subsequent organic evolution of these advanced capabilities.

In conclusion, it is far from certain whether intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. Moreover, if it does exist, it is even more uncertain that this life has visited our planet in spacecraft. However, if the principles of convergent evolution, ecological equivalence, and cultural evolution apply on a cosmic level as they do on Earth, then one should not rule out the possibility as preposterous that UFOnauts, should they exist and should they visit Earth, resemble us in superficial humanoid form or be no more physically advanced than ourselves.

REFERENCES

1. Simpson, G. G., C. S. Pittendrigh and L. H. Tiffany. 1957. Life: An Introduction to Biology. *Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.: New York, pp. 470-472.*

2. Odum, E. P. 1959. Fundamentals of Ecology. *W. B. Saunders Co.: Philadelphia, pp. 368-370.*

3. Wald, G. 1962. Life in the second and third periods; or why phosphorus and sulfur for high-energy bonds? In: Horizons in Biochemistry, *ed. by M. Kasha and B. Pullman. Academic Press: New York, pp. 127-142.*

4. Stebbins, G. L. 1966. Processes of Organic Evolution. *Prentice-Hall, Inc.: Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, pp. 174-175.*

ITALY (cont.)

object seen by him and two others in the cockpit, near noon on a bright sunny Italian day in 1967 (note how long before this case surfaced). It was less than a half-mile away and the Captain was primarily impressed by its very solid appearance and its relative closeness. "I could have read large letters on it if it had had them", he told me. The solid object paced the Viscount plane the Captain was flying (at an altitude of about 12,000 feet)for 3 or4 minutes and then took off vertically at a great speed. The Captain decided to report "a strange balloon" to the Rome radio (they had shortly before taken off from Rome bound for Vienna and were now off the coast of the island of Elba) and the response from the Rome tower was most interesting. "Very interesting", they said, "just twenty seconds ago we had a report from a BOAC plane [flying at 42,000 feet almost directly above the Viscount] telling of a similar object passing them".

The Captain's second story had to do with his (and that of 50 other witnesses) near sunset sighting in 1971 while on the ground in Venice airport and while preparing to enter his plane, of a very bright light which came down over the runway at an altitude of 2000 feet and followed the center line of the runway exactly over its entire length, at a speed of almost two Mach noiselessly. This fact particularly impressed itself upon the Captain. One does not usually have an object a few hundred feet away, flying at nearly twice the speed of sound, remain soundless.

One wonders how many good reports lie fallow somewhere, unreported because of fear of ridicule. The distressing fact is that the more trained and sophisticated the observers are (like our Captain above) the more reluctant they are to report, since they are more aware than others of the possible consequences of making such a report. As the Captain told me, "There is no point in reporting a UFO to anyone except to one who has made a study of such matters. It will only lead to ridicule and misunderstanding."

That really seems to be the key to good reporting and study not only in Italy but everywhere: find the most serious group or groups in any country and cooperate with them. In Italy at present, it appears to this observer that CUN best fits that category. I do not know how prepared UFO PHENOMENA is to receive and investigate individual cases. My feeling is that this is not their objective. Their aim is to publish the results of considered study of UFO reports and investigations made by others. It can be hoped that IL GIORNALE DEI MISTERI will succeed in its aims to establish a well-funded and serious group for UFO research and that it will cooperate with other serious groups, in Italy and abroad. We certainly support such objectives, but "by their fruits ye shall know them". It is results that count in the long run.

—J. Allen Hynek

7 seconds. Then, on radar, the target made a hairpin turn in the space of one second at a distance of about 15 miles south of the base and, maintaining the same high speed, closed on them. When it made it to a distance of 5 miles, seen visually through binoculars by Sneed, the light abruptly stopped . . . Well, almost. The radar system succeeded in locking onto the target for the second and final time, showing it to be moving northbound at the "speed" of 2 knots! This strange motion was observed for only 1 to 1½ minutes, and the light disappeared from the scope in the space of one sweep for the last time. Simultaneously, Sneed watched the light vanish through binoculars, unable to determine any method of disappearance other than the sudden extinction of the lights, visible to the unaided eye.

1230 AM—Radar shut down after fruitless search for additional sightings.

WEATHER

The weather bureau in nearby Orlando said that weather conditions for that night were clear with 15 miles visibility, starting at 9 PM and extending until 11 AM the next day. One of the visual observers mentioned the possibility of the light disappearing "behind clouds", while others established that it was "perfectly clear". For reasons explored later, it was desired to obtain upper atmospheric temperatures, but the nearest soundings took place in Tampa, too far from the base to be meaningful.

WITNESS REACTION

The Navy personnel adopted a basically "professional" attitude toward the event, according to the Duty Officer. No one, however, made an effort to instrumentally record or log the event; the differences in time estimates ranged greatly from witness to witness. A Mr. Nick Young was sent from Jacksonville Naval Air Station to look into the event, but did not obtain much in the way of detailed information. According to him, the "official Navy position" on the sighting was that a group of trained, reliable Navy personnel, "including a Duty Officer with 14 years experience and a radar operator with 8 years experience" watched something unidentified that performed in unusual ways. He could not see any way to probe into the elusive event beyond the testimony of the men, however.

ON THE CASE

Original source: Associated Press, two days after the event. Comprehensive interviews were conducted with Duty Officer Clark, radar operator Collins, observation tower witness Gary Sneed and Navy investigator Young.

The radar employed was an "MSQ-102" tracking and acquisition system, one of three in the world. Some of the information on this computer-assisted radar was classified. A van containing the radar equipment has a tracking antenna on its roof with a maximum range of 50 miles. The large acquisition antenna array is 30 yards away on a hill, with a range of 60 miles. This sophisticated arrangement is normally used as a bomb scoring unit on the bombing range; it can actually computer-predict the impact point of dropped bombs, talking into account wind speed and direction! "If you want to track UFOs on radar", Collins said, "this would be the system". The antenna sweep rate used was 20 r.p.m.

The radar display in the van has three "A scans" devoted to tracking azimuth, range and elevation. A PPI mode was used to scan for motion. When a target on the screen is selected by the operator, the computer can lock onto it and track it automatically.

In an effort to secure external radar confirmation, IUR contacted the Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center. It was learned that the Jacksonville ARTCC was contacted at the time of the observations to see if they had granted permission to any aircraft to enter the restricted zone; they had not. IUR initiated a search of the ARTCC's computerized radar storage tapes to see if the targets appear on that system. The results are not yet known, and will be presented in the second part of this article, although the low altitudes claims for the UFO(s) will likely render them valueless.

IUR also contacted the civilian witnesses seven miles north of the base who first called the Navy's attention to the multicolored lights. The result of this inquiry will also be presented in part two.

A check for radioactivity or physical traces in the area by investigator Jay West proved to be negative.

ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

ASTRONOMY: The positioning of the UFO, described as a "large star" visually, was consistent with the location of Venus in the WNW night sky. The use of optics would conceivably result in the breakup of different colors for such a light source seen near the horizon. Venus and Jupiter would have both set by the end of the first sightings (if the time schedule used here is accurate). Furthermore, the witnesses have been taken out on subsequent nights and shown Venus and Jupiter in the same part of the sky. All agree that they saw those "candidates" at the same time as the UFO, which was brighter still. Also, this scheme would not account for the behavior of the third event.

(cont. on newspage)

THE CASE FOR IFO STUDY: A RECENT EXAMPLE

by Allan Hendry

In the July, 1977 issue of IUR, I addressed myself to the issue of how raw sighting reports are judged to be worthy of the term "UFO". I touched on the problem of distorted observations in the identifiable (IFO) claims. These distortions, present in IFO sightings no matter what type of physical source is involved, are due less to the absence of perceptually-available information at the time of the event than to non-existent details emotionally "read into" the IFO's form, as well as false cause-and effect assumptions about the IFO's motion and special effects that occur during the sighting. On the surface, it is obvious that any such exagerrated "data" helps to disfigure the IFO's true identity and render identification more difficult. Deeper than this, however, are the implications—and portents—for those descriptions which we are forced to accept at face value . . . the true UFO reports, for which we have no identifiable source. In the far more prolific IFO sightings, we have the opportunity to extract the known details of the source's appearance, behavior and capabilities from the witnesses' verbal reports to see if they are doing an accurate job as "instruments". Then, since the hundreds of people who have reported seeing IFOs to IUR share the same demographic profile as the UFO witnesses in terms of age, sex, occupation, eduction, extent of previous UFO sightings and interest, we may fairly regard the IFO witnesses to be an index of reliability in the portrayal of objects seen in the sky. Granted, the IFO witnesses failed to identify the nature of what it was that they saw, yet just as long as they described the IFO source accurately, we may feel more confident that the testimony of the UFO witnesses is comparatively objective.

Recently, IUR received word of a sighting in Aurura, Illinois, in the far western suburbs of Chicago. The case was rich in the elements that are traditionally supposed to underwrite the value of a genuine sighting:

Multiple Independent Witnesses

The Aurora Police informed me that a total of ten people called the station to report a UFO on the night of April 29 from around 10:30 PM until midnight. One of these couples claimedto have had a CloseEncounter with the UFO and I shall refer to them as Mr. and Mrs. "S". When they stopped their car to observe what appeared to be a "saucer", they were alongside of three boys (not known to them) who were also pointing and shouting, "Look at the saucer!". They saw about eight more men at the local Moose Lodge standing on top of their cars pointing at it. Then Mr. and Mrs. "S" drove to their neighbors to bring them outside as the "saucer" followed them home.

Close Proximity

Mr. and Mrs. "S" both agreed that the saucer passed over their car at treetop level. Indeed, they noted that it had to angle upward to "avoid hitting" the trees.

Domed Disc Appearance

The sketches below were prepared by Mr. and Mrs. "S". They "apologize" that they are intended to show a saucer body with a dome on top and lights surrounding it. Mr. "S" stuck to his observation (not shared by his wife) that the saucer had lights around its bottom as well. The lights were seen by all witnesses to rotate around the form. "It was twirling like a carnival ride", one woman said.

Size Estimates

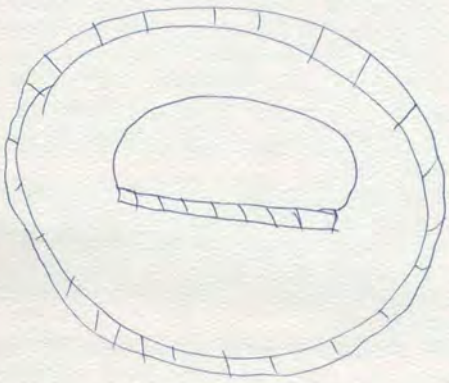
Mr. and Mrs. "S" considered the UFO to be as big as a football field in actual size (although in angular size it was deemed to be only twice the width of the moon). Other witnesses to whom I spoke placed the size of the UFO as small as 25 feet; Mr. and Mrs. "S" learned of this, and theorized that they may have viewed a "mothership", while others saw additional smaller versions.

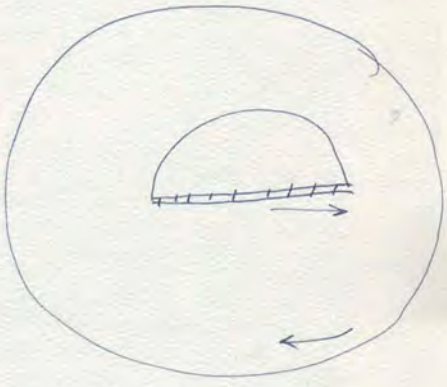
Unearthly Motions

All witnesses took note of the UFO's apparent ability to hover motionlessly, which "no airplane can do", according to Mrs. "S". It could be seen circling around the city by any set of witnesses for as long as 30 minutes. Mr. and Mrs. "S" saw the object head eastward (toward Chicago) and suddenly take off "in the blink of an eye" and all of this in total silence!

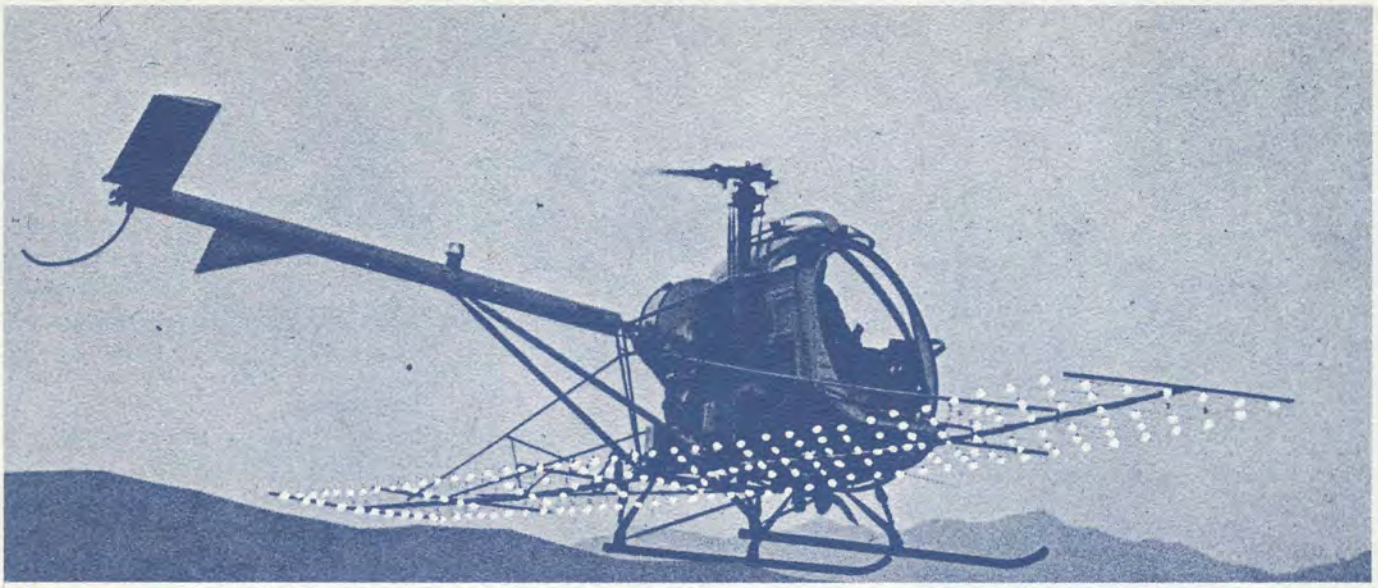
Special Effects

The neighbors of the "S" 's noted that their TV set blanked out for two





AD AIR LINER's advertising plane from Lansing, IL was perceived by Mr. & Mrs. "S" as the above sketches when it circled Aurora, IL.



Small planes aren't the only carriers of these animated signs.

minutes while they were watching a beauty pageant. Mr. and Mrs. "S" blamed this disturbance on the presence of the UFO. Similarly, power failures in Aurora were keyed to the UFO in town. No effects were noted in the cars driven by witnesses, however.

Emotional Reactions

I spoke for a few hours with Mr. "S" who is not a big man, yet when he made it to his neighbors' house, he tore the door off of its latch and hinges! Many of the independent witnesses were still shaken up when I spoke with them. Mr. and Mrs. "S" couldn't sleep all that night. Mrs. "S" insisted that, unlike her her husband, she had never taken an interest in the subject of UFOs before, and even had to be coaxed to see the movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS; yet she "believes in them now", asserting that she never wants to see one again. While her husband was fascinated watching the saucer, she wanted to leave the area as quickly as possible: "Why do we have to see this?". Their neighbor, Mr. "T", told me shortly after the incident that he still "gets chills" thinking about it; "you want to cry but you're still too shocked." The 11-year old child of yet another family hid behind the back seat of the car.

IUR Follow-up

With all of these factors going for it, how could such a case be considered anything but a true UFO? For a reason that has been touched upon in other identifiable situtations in the past . . . the pervasive emotional climate that appears to be surrounding the entire UFO subject, one that succeeds in distorting even the most commonplane sightings into exaggerated "miracles". Because of the common claim that the UFO had a row of white lights seemingly rotating around it, because some of the witnesses saw a blinking red light in addition to the white lights, and with an eye to previous calls to IUR from the southern Chicago suburbs describing EXACTLY THE SAME THING REPEATEDLY FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, I checked with Ad Airlines, an aerial advertising company in Chicago. They operate a light aircraft with a sign underneath it, made up of 315 lights that spell out messages in a manner often seen on bank signs. The letters move from right to left at a rate of three characters per second. When the plane is not viewed from directly underneath, however, or if it is banked, all you see is a row of white lights seemingly (through the illusion of sequential flashing) moving from right to left. In the three hundred calls that IUR has dealt with that were based on confirmed ad planes at night, 90% of the witnesses described NOT what was perceptually available, but rather that they could see a disc-shaped form *rotating* with "fixed" lights; many of these people imagine that they see a dome on top and, when pressed, will swear that they can make out the outline with confidence. The reader has probably guessed the outcome . . . . the ad plane was indeed circling the town at that late hour to advertise the Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company department store.

Furthermore, 91% of the ad plane IFO reports in IUR's experience have been accompanied by the claim that no sound could be heard. This is due to the slow speed at which the ad planes fly (around 45 m.p.h.) to permit the message to be read. This same slow speed catches people off guard, making them commonly report that the IFO is hovering in one place. The low (1000-foot) altitude and the aerial "sideshow" put on by the pilots to attract attention doesn't help matters any, either. As for that TV interference, further checks revealed that the TV station broadcast an apology for the *technical problems* on their end!

Yet none of this rationale begins to "explain" the distorted observations regarding "domed discs", "treetop heights", gigantic size estimates, claims of being deliberately followed in cars, false assumptions that the ad plane's sign turning off *equated* to the "UFO" rushing away faster than the eye could follow, the causality attempted between the UFO and the TV interference, and most of all, the wholly unwarranted emotional reactions exhibited by the witnesses and the immediate, nearly universal conclusion that the ad plane was from outer space. The key issue here is NOT that the sighting was "only an ad plane", because such a "solution" cannot in itself account for the independent witnesses' behavior and inaccuracies. I do not see this IFO as the "garbage" to be weeded out while the "real" UFOs are retained as "data", when there is a wealth of data present here about UFOlogy's old bugaboo: the reliability of human testimony.

PROFILE: APRIL , 1978

● —IFO ★ —UFO

IFOs:

Aircraft	15
Ad Planes	12
Stars & Planets	12
Meteors	7
Satellites	2
Hoax	1
Moon	1
Prank Balloon	1

Exclusions:

Non-UFO	1
Insufficient Information	1

UFOs:
None

Total Number of Reports	53
Average per Day	1.8
Peak activity (6 cases)	4/5
Total Number of UFOs	0
Total Number of IFOs	51

UFOs: 0.0% **IFOs:** 100.0%

There were no UFOs during the month of April. IUR had hoped that the map would reflect case-by-case evaluations of a flurry of sightings that occurred in the Syracuse, NY area. Sergeant Maurice Tuohey of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department became the focus for UFO reporting in that area, thanks to local press coverage. He promised me directly (and twice via the press) that the Center for UFO Studies would be the recipient of a considerable package of witness descriptions, sketches, and photos. Then, according to local sources, the heads of the area's law enforcement agencies opted to "stone wall" the entire situation inexplicably. Repeated appeals by myself, various reporters, and investigator Robert Barrow failed to shift the "embarrassing" (?) burden onto our shoulders. In the unlikely event that these records should become available in the future, IUR will inform its readers of the results.

UFO OCCUPANTS: A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Bruce L. Umminger
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Cincinnati

In numerous reports of close encounters of the third kind, observers often describe UFO occupants as humanoid in appearance with bipedal stature and facial features similar to those of man. Many critics cite the statistical improbability of intelligent life from other parts of the universe having a body form similar to man's whereas other critics speculate that alien beings more intellectually advanced than man must somehow be more physically advanced as well. It is not my intent to comment on whether CE III reports are valid observations or whether UFO's are, in fact, spacecraft occupied by intelligent life. I do wish to point out three biological concepts (convergent evolution, ecological equivalence, and cultural evolution) which demonstrate it is not inconceivable that intelligent life elsewhere, should it exist, have an anthropomorphic form.

Convergent evolution (1) is the evolutionary development of resemblance between organisms whose ancesters were less alike. Taking an example from planet Earth, whales and fishes show that organisms may be alike in appearance even through they are of quite different phylogenetic ancestry. Convergence is due to plants or animals of different origin becoming adapted to similar habitats and habits, *i.e.,* the same ecological niche. Thus whales and fishes, living together in the oceans of Earth, have similarly streamlined body plans molded by natural selection as the form best able to accomplish efficient locomotion in the aquatic environment. Similarly, when organisms occupy the same ecological niche in similar communities of different biogeographic regions of Earth, they often develop similar morphologies and are termed *ecological equivalents* (2). Ecological equivalents need not be closely related phylogenetically. For example, jack rabbits are characteristic of grassland areas of western North American whereas the Patagonian cavy, a relative of the guinea pig, occupies the same niche in the grasslands of Argentina; both animals have long hind legs and big ears, morphological characters well suited for locomotion and sensory perception in tall grass. The discontinuity of continents on Earth provides land environments with similar communities of plants and animals, often similar in form and function but comprising different species: grasslands, tropical rain forests, deciduous forests, tundra, etc.

If one concedes that there are millions of planets in the universe similar in physical, chemical, and geological makeup to Earth, and if one also concedes that some proportion of these gave rise to life, then

(cont. on newspage)